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AND PENSIONS



RICK W. ALLEN

12TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

July 1, 2020

The Honorable Betsy DeVos  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos:

I am writing to express my support for Georgia's request for a waiver of the high stakes testing and annual report card requirements in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for the 2020-2021 school year. I fully believe the outcomes laid out in this waiver request are in the best interest of the students of our state.

I want to specifically request that all components of the waiver be considered and approved. As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a less than ideal learning environment for our students, so requiring high stakes testing and holding students and schools accountable to the same levels during this unprecedented time is an unnecessary burden.

I am hopeful your Department will approve this waiver, as the alternative is for students and schools to be penalized by testing and accountability when we should instead be focused on remediation, growth, and the safety of students. As a state, we are asking for the flexibility to avoid a detrimental impact to students that would add to the anxiety already created by this pandemic.

I appreciate your commitment to educational flexibility and your time in reviewing both Georgia's waiver request and this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress

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